



FIRE APPARATUS OPERATOR CERTIFICATION DIRECTIVE

(NFPA 1002 2009 Edition)

**Department of Public Safety
5700 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
(907)269-5052**

www.firestandards.alaska.gov

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ALASKA FIRE APPARATUS DRIVER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION DIRECTIVE

FIRE APPARATUS OPERATOR DIRECTIVE BACKGROUND

The State of Alaska Emergency Vehicle Driver Certification was originally developed to assist local emergency service organizations with effective training and education to prevent crashes involving fire and rescue apparatus. The initial directive included elements of NFPA 1002, NFPA 1500, IFSTA Apparatus Operator, Title 13 Alaska Administrative Code, and the National Safety Council's CEVO III Fire and Ambulance programs.

The Alaska driver/operator certification directive was developed and approved by the Alaska Fire Standards Council ([AFSC](#)) in 2003. The directive was known as the Emergency Vehicle Driver (EVD) and referenced the National Safety Council (NSC) Coaching The Emergency Vehicle Operator II ® (CEVO II) program and some skill requirements within NFPA 1002. In 2008 the AFSC EVD directive was updated to recognize the [NSC's Coaching The ® Emergency Vehicle Operator \(CEVO\) 3 - Fire™](#) program.

The AFSC revised the Emergency Vehicle directive in 2011 to meet the requirements of NFPA 1002; *Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications*, 2009 edition. With this revision the directive name changed from Emergency Vehicle Driver to Fire Apparatus Driver Operator (FADO) for consistency with the NFPA standard.

FIRE APPARATUS OPERATOR DIRECTIVE OVERVIEW

The FADO certification directive is based on industry standards and was developed to provide Alaska fire service agencies with a method to attain knowledge and skills to safely operate fire service apparatus. The current directive is referenced to [NFPA 1002](#), *Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications*, 2009 edition, and is intended to provide a standard level of fire apparatus driver/operator training through a credible certification directive.

The FADO directive is designed for candidates that are expected to operate fire department vehicles for a fire or emergency service organization. For each level of FADO certification, individuals must meet AFSC application requirements and complete the following elements:

- 1) Fire Apparatus Operator course specific to the level of certification (i.e Driver, Pumper, Aerial, Mobile Water Supply); and
- 2) Practical (JPR) requirements specific to the level of certification; and
- 3) Successful completion of the AFSC FADO written examination (70% minimum score) specific to the level of certification.

A written examination is administered to ensure applicants have met the requisite knowledge requirements within the NFPA standard. Certification for AFSC recognized FADO levels are also available through a reciprocity process.

FIRE APPARATUS OPERATOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Driver Operator

To qualify for this level of certification, an applicant must:

- a. be at least 18 years of age, and;
 - b. be an Alaska resident or member of an organized fire department or an emergency response organization registered with the Division of Fire and Life Safety, and;
 - c. have a valid driver's license
 - d. *successfully complete an AFSC/TEB approved Driver Operator course, and;
 - e. *successfully complete the AFSC Driver Operator written exam (*minimum score of 70%*) and;
 - f. *successfully complete the required AFSC Driver Operator practical skill elements
- * *The course requirement and the written test requirement must be completed within **three years** of application date and must meet NFPA 1002 core requirements*

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Pumper Operator

To qualify for this level of certification, an applicant must:

- a. have AFSC certification for Firefighter I; and
- b. meet all Driver Operator requirements; and
- c. complete all Driver Operator skills using a fire apparatus that meets the Pumper designation; and
- d. *successfully complete an AFSC/TEB approved Pumper Operator course; and
- e. *successfully complete the AFSC written Pumper Operator exam with a minimum score of 70%.
** The course requirement and the written test requirement must be completed within **three years** of application date and must meet NFPA 1002 core requirements*

Aerial Operator

To qualify for this level of certification, an applicant must:

- a. have AFSC certification for Firefighter I; *and*
- b. meet all Driver Operator *and* Pumper Operator requirements; and
- c. complete all Driver Operator skills using a fire apparatus that meets the Aerial designation; *and*
- d. *successfully complete an AFSC/TEB approved Aerial Operator course; *and*
- e. *successfully complete the AFSC written Aerial Operator exam with a minimum score of 70%.
** The course requirement and the written test requirement must be completed within **three years** of application date and must meet NFPA 1002 core requirements*

Mobile Water Supply Operator

To qualify for this level of certification, an applicant must:

- a. meet all Driver Operator requirements; and
- b. complete all Driver Operator skills using a fire apparatus that meets the Mobile Water Supply designation; *and*
- c. *successfully complete an AFSC/TEB approved Mobile Water Supply Operator course; *and*
- d. *successfully complete the AFSC written Mobile Water Supply Operator exam with a minimum score of 70%.
** The course requirement and the written test requirement must be completed within **three years** of application date and must meet NFPA 1002 core requirements*

FIRE APPARATUS OPERATOR COURSES

To be eligible to take the certification exam for FADO, applicants must have completed a TEB approved training course. Training courses are offered through TEB, or, through fire department training programs that have been accredited by TEB before the course start date. The Fire Apparatus Driver Operator course must meet the knowledge and skill requirements of NFPA 1002, 2009 edition (chapter specific to the level of certification). Fire departments or organizations conducting a TEB approved course must follow the requirements of the [Training Program Accreditation & Course Approval Manual](#). Courses at this level are conducted throughout Alaska.

FIRE APPARATUS OPERATOR EXAMINATIONS

The Fire Standards Council has developed a written examination test bank for FADO certification. Each FADO examination has a total of 100 questions, and test bank questions are referenced to NFPA 1002, 2009 edition. Fire Apparatus Operator certification examinations are typically administered immediately following an approved course. For certificate issuance, written examinations must be completed with a score of 70% or higher. There is a two-hour time limit for the final written examination.

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In cases where an individual is eligible to test, but is not testing with a group, the AFSC staff will provide direction and approval of testing alternatives. For regions with reasonable access to TEB training centers, the TEB staff may proctor written examinations. Examinations **shall not** be sent to the individual taking the exam.

The AFSC office will grade all certification examinations and notify the applicant of final scores.

Fire Apparatus Driver, Pumper, Mobile Water Supply Operator Written Examination References

- a. NFPA 1002; Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications, 2009 edition
- b. Text
 - IFSTA, Pumping Apparatus Driver/Operator Handbook, 2nd Edition

Aerial Operator Written Examination References

- a. All above references; *and*
- b. IFSTA, Aerial Apparatus Driver/Operator Handbook, 2nd Edition

Fire Apparatus Driver, Pumper, Mobile Water Supply Operator Practical Skills Evaluation References

- a. NFPA 1002; Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications, 2009 edition
- b. Driver Operator Practical Skills Evaluation Sheets (specific to the level of certification)

RECIPROCITY

The AFSC can certify individuals for Driver Operator through reciprocity (honored in part). Reciprocity is available to an individual who has completed his or her certification through an entity accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress ([IFSAAC](#)) or the National Fire Service Professional Qualifications Board ([ProBoard](#)). Reciprocity is honored in part and the requirements for certification are as follows:

Fire Apparatus Driver Operator Reciprocity Requirements

- 1. applicant must provide an [Application for Certification](#); and
- 2. be at least 18 years of age; *and*
- 3. be an Alaska resident or member of an organized fire department or an emergency response organization registered with the Division of Fire and Life Safety; *and*
- 4. Provide a copy of a certificate with a IFSAC or ProBoard seal for the level of the request: *and*
- 5. have a valid driver's license; *and*
- 6. **provide driver history report with application
** *Driver history report must be current within 90 days of application submission*

Reciprocity applicants must meet all AFSC requirements for each level of certification.

EQUIVALENCY CHALLENGE

To initiate the challenge process, an individual must have documentation of completion of a FADO training program. The AFSC will only accept FADO challenge applicants if he or she is affiliated with an Alaska fire department or organization with an accredited firefighter training program for the level of the challenge request. All challenge requests must be coordinated through the fire department the individual is affiliated with. The fire department Training Officer/Accreditation Manager has the responsibility to verify the applicant meets the requirements for testing and must complete and sign-off a FADO Training Record before the applicant is eligible to complete an AFSC certification exam.

The following general guidelines apply to all equivalency challenge requests:

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- a. A candidate must complete an [Application for Certification](#) and attach supporting documentation; *and*
- b. the candidate must be a member of a Fire Department registered in Alaska and must have a letter of support from the Fire Chief; *and*
- c. the candidate must provide documentation of training that complies with each component of the appropriate NFPA Standard for desired level of certification (documentation must be dated within the last 3 years); *and*
- d. the candidate must successfully pass the AFSC's written exam with a minimum score of 70% for desired level of certification and practical skills exam, where applicable; *and*
- e. the candidate must meet the general requirements for certification as outlined in the appropriate certification directive.

Applicants that have been endorsed by a Training Officer/Accreditation Manager can complete an approved FADO examination locally, but a FADO examination will not be scheduled for a single individual. If no test opportunity is possible locally, applicants can contact the AFSC office for information on other certification test sites.

A candidate **is not** permitted to attend a final exam at an alternate test site without the explicit pre-approval of the AFSC office *and* the agency that is authorized for the exam. To test at a site other than his or her fire department, the challenge candidate must:

1. have permission from the agency that is scheduled to test; *and*
2. provide a letter of support from the Fire Chief; *and*
3. provide evidence of AFSC written approval to test; *and*
4. provide photo ID; *and*
5. provide a completed training record for the level of the examination signed off by the candidate's Training Officer/Accreditation Manager; *and*
6. have the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment as approved by the Test Site Coordinator.

CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS

The AFSC does not have a criminal history report requirement for this level of certification.

RECERTIFICATION

AFSC Fire Apparatus Driver Operator certification does not expire. It is the responsibility of the individual to maintain knowledge and skill requirements after the certification examination is completed.

PREVIOUS ALASKA EMERGENCY VEHICLE DRIVER CERTIFICATION/GRANDFATHER

The Alaska Fire Standards Council recognizes all previous State of Alaska certifications issued for Emergency Vehicle Driver (EVD) through the [Division of Fire and Life Safety](#) (formerly Division of Fire Prevention) and the AFSC. Initial EVD certification and EVD recertification will only be possible until December 31, 2013.

There is no "grandfather" option available for EVD certificates. After 2015 individuals must convert EVD certificates over to Fire Apparatus Driver Operator directive certificates through a conversion program.

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EMERGENCY VEHICLE DRIVER CERTIFICATION CONVERSION

Many Alaska fire service personnel have been certified at the EVD level. In recognition of an individual's AFSC EVD certification, the AFSC will offer an EVD Conversion program designed to allow initial Driver Operator certification without performing additional training. This conversion is only applicable for the Driver Operator level.

For a conversion option applicants must:

- a. *have a current AFSC EVD certification; *and*
- b. be an Alaska resident or member of an organized fire department or an emergency response organization registered with the Division of Fire and Life Safety; *and*
- c. have a valid driver's license; *and*
- d. successfully complete the AFSC Driver Operator written exam (*minimum score of 70%*)
* *AFSC EVD certificate cannot be expired more than one year*

This conversion program will only be available until December 31, 2015, after which a person must complete the full FADO training program.

PREVIOUS ALASKA FIRE APPARATUS DRIVER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION/GRANDFATHER CERTIFICATION

The Alaska Fire Standards Council recognizes all previous State of Alaska certifications issued for Fire Apparatus Driver Operator. This program was only available to a limited pilot group prior to IFSAC accreditation and does not have a grandfather option for certification. All certification issued after December of 2012 will include an IFSAC seal.